Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201425

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RJCARROLL:MJB
APPROVED BY EUR - ARTHUR A. HARTMAN
DOD/ISA - LTC. BOWEN
PM/ISO - H. HAGERTY
EUR/SE - N. C. LEDSKY

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P R 122349Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
INFO CINCUSNAVEUR
NAS 'IGONELLA
CTF SIX SEVEN

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, MT

SUBJECT: EOD DETECTORS

REF: VALLETTA 1430

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

- 1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF FUNDING FOR TDY/TRAVEL OF EOD TEAM LEADER.
- 2. AFTER EXAMINING ALL POSSIBILITIES, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THERE IS NO PRACTICAL WAY FOR THE USG TO ARRANGE FUNDING AND THAT TRAVEL EXPENSES OF THE EOD TEAM LEADER WILL HAVE TO BE BORNE BY THE GOM. MISSION SHOULD SO INFORM GOM AND DETERMINE WHETHER ON-SITE SURVEY OF LUQA PROJECT AND LOAN OF METAL DETECTORS IS STILL DESIRED. IF SO, CINCEUR SHOULD COORDINATE DIRECTLY WITH DATT VALLETTA ON EFFECTING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 201425

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES AND TO ARRANGE FOR EOD TEAM

LEADER FROM SIGONELLA TO VISIT MALTA.

3. FYI: WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR INSISTENCE ON REIMBURSEMENT BY GOM OF TRAVEL COSTS MAY DIMINISH SOMEWHAT THE POLITICAL BENEFIT TO BE DERIVED FROM LENDING ASSISTANCE, WE BELIEVE GOM SHOULD NOT OBJECT TO PAYING THE MODEST AMOUNT INVOLVED. GOM MAY DRAW ANALOGY WITH SUEZ CANAL CLEARING OPERATION INVOLVING UNREIMBURSED USG EXPENSE, BUT

THAT REQUIRED SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATION WHICH WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL TO SEEK IN THIS INSTANCE. LACKING SUCH DETERMINATION, THERE IS NO LEGAL WAY OF FUNDING TRAVEL COSTS EITHER THROUGH AID OR DEFENSE FUNDS. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE RESPONDING TO AN URGENT NEED BY PROVIDING VALUABLE EXPERTISE AND EQUIPMENT WHICH THE GOM WOULD OTHERWISE NEED TO OBTAIN ON CONTRACT. KISSINGER

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